

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 1-4 and 15-19 are currently being canceled.

Claims 5, 6, 9 and 10 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 5-14 are now pending in this application.

Request for Entry of After-Final Amendment and Reply:

It is respectfully requested that this "after-final" amendment and reply be considered and entered, since: a) it is believed to place this application in condition for allowance without requiring any further consideration and/or search.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant appreciates the indication in the Office Action that claims 5-8 and 11-14 contain allowable subject matter. By way of this amendment and reply, claims 5 and 6 have each been placed in independent form to include the features of their respective base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, claims 5 and 6 are now in allowable form. Claims 7-14 depend either directly or indirectly from either claim 5 or claim 6, and thus claims 7-14 are also now in allowable form.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,815,252 to Price-Francis; claims 3-4, 9-10 and 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Price-Francis in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,978,924 to Ahn; and claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Price-Francis in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,377,269 to Heptig et al. Due to the cancellation of claims 1-4 and 15-19, and due to the changed dependencies of claims 9 and 10, these rejections are now moot.

Conclusion:

Since all of the rejections raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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